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SUMMARY
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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LESS DEVELOPED AREAS

SUMMARY

Agenda Item: H.1/H.3

France

ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS AND PATTERNS : ATTEMPT AT SYSTEMATIC ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS OF FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICAN STATES AND MALAGASY WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING GUIDES TO DEVELOPMENT AND SOME BASIC FACTS THAT CAN BE USED IN A PROPOSED SIMPLE SCHEME

By Henri LEROUX

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No. 875 ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS AND PATTERNS

H.1-H.3 **Attempt at systematic analysis of the economic accounts of French-speaking African States and Malgasy with a view to obtaining guides to development and some basic facts that can be used in a proposed simple scheme.** (1)

By
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SUMMARY

Part 1. SYSTEMATIC ANALYSIS OF DATA EXTRACTED FROM ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS.

The accounts we have available are not, of course, perfect; they contain differences in presentation and estimation which sometimes make comparisons difficult. Nevertheless, we deemed it advisable to make use of these considerable documentations, not only in order to obtain better knowledge of the structure or particular position of each of the States, but also in an attempt to work out a series of parameters which can be used in development schemes suited to the countries in question.

Where the data seemed sufficiently reliable, we tried to make adjustments by the least squares method. More often than not, however, we had to confine ourselves to the calculation of ratios or coefficients, from which we obtained common constants and zonal variations. It thus emerged that some of these coefficients varied widely from one State to another and could be taken as guides to the individual position or degree of development, while others were relatively constant and could be retained as parameters.

Part II. PROPOSED PATTERNS.

1. Basis for planning the main points of an economic table.

This is an overall basis comprising only one sector covering the economy as a whole and one production factor, Capital. Some thirty variables are interconnected by equations expressing:

Computable facts;
Behaviour patterns;
Technical, structural and institutional reports;
Reports expressing aims or data.

2. Scheme taking into account the part played by Government investments.

The relative constancy and the size of the ratio of Government investments to investments as a whole suggested the hypothesis that Government investments would play a leading part in the determination of the total volume of investments and, consequently, in economic development. Now, these are financed by Government savings, foreign aid and private investments. If we accept that the last two financial sources are limited, the maintenance of the rate of development assumes that greater Government savings can be obtained every year. This is translated, in practice, by a need to promote an increase in the average rate of taxation, of which the scheme proposes an assessment.

3. Scheme for distribution by sectors of production targets.

This scheme uses variable coefficients of elasticity the sum value of the various sectors in relation to gross internal production at the expense of the factors:

4. Scheme for taking into account the modification in structure per product of domestic consumption when total consumption increases.

This scheme uses consumption variables.

5. Scheme for use of an inter-industrial exchange table.

Difficulties in using such a table in developing countries.

Showing of advanced, and lagging or limiting areas.

Need for a table and a scheme comprising separate treatment of local and imported products.

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(1) This paper is the subject of a 150-page thesis by Messrs. Henri LEROUX, Jean Pierre ALLIER and René CONDOMINES, entitled: "ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS AND PATTERNS" published by the Co-operation Ministry of the French Republic. This paper will be available to Delegates of the States; only a brief summary is given here.

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